

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Zucker for the indication that Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-21, 29, 30, 33, and 35 are allowed in the present application.

During a review of the present application, Applicants noted an error in the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 8, 2003. Specifically, the filing date of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/05665 was improperly cited as August 23, 2002. The correct filing date of PCT/JP00/05665 is August 23, 2000. Applicants have corrected this error by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been presented. Entry of the present amendment is requested.

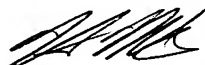
Finally, Applicants also request that the Examiner acknowledge that Fukuda et al listed on the Information Disclosure Statement Filed on September 8, 2003, and the references cited on the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 15, 2003, have been considered. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of same by providing Applicants with an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 enclosed herewith listing these references. Applicants submit herewith a copy of the Information Disclosure Statements as filed on September 8, 2003, and December 15, 2003, along a copy of the corresponding date-stamped filing receipts evidencing the timely filing thereof.

Application Serial No. 10/656,228
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments herein above be entered. Prompt acknowledgment to this effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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